

do not need any new gospel. It still has the same good power. The Holy Spirit power. It is good, it is old and yet it is always new. If the churches would just turn to God as the gospel directs, and cease grieving the Holy Spirit, so that he could consistently work in and thru them as of old, we would have revivals every where, and conversions, and many would daily be added to the number of believers. The character of Apostolic preaching may be learned from Paul's language, 1 Cor. 2: 1-5: Brethren, when I came to you, I came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstrations of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. "The gospel." The writer does not belittle education in any sense, but great care must be exercised so that we do not unduly exalt helps and expediences: always keep prominently in view the two great central thoughts of God's plan of salvation, namely the Lord Jesus Christ, and the gospel;—glorious revivals of religion will then be the result.

—West Independence, Ohio.

#### "SHADOWS OF PRISON LIFE"

C. ORVILLE WITTER

Last Monday evening I had the privilege of hearing Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth on the above subject. Mrs. Booth is a great hearted woman and her work among the prisoners has resulted in great good. Seventy five percent of the members of her league are following lives of respectability. A very large percent indeed when the character of the members is considered.

The ex-convict is a man without hope. Mrs. Booth believes the prisoner should be punished but does not think he should be branded so that all hope shall be blotted out when he is released from prison. What a sad commentary upon Christianity it is that Christians turn their scathing and uncharitable remarks toward the released convict. "Once a criminal, always a criminal is their cry," and often their very ostracism makes it so.

Two regulations found in most prisons make it impossible for a man who has served a sentence in penitentiary to conceal the fact. In many prisons the prisoner is obliged to drop his eyes or turn his back whenever a visitor passes his cell. In some he is not allowed to speak to any one. This in itself will soon make it impossible for a man to look another in the eye or talk connectedly and coherently.

The other regulation which dooms the prisoner is the lockstep in which they march to chapel and meals. After even a very short sentence their walk can be detected by a detective at once. The result is that if any misdemeanor is committed in the neigh-

borhood where the discharged convict is staying he is at once seized on suspicion and brought to trial. If the facts at hand are not sufficient to convict him his past record is called for and if the judge allows it, he is sometimes returned to prison merely on account of his past record. Is it any wonder that the ex-convict loses hope and makes crime a profession.

One of the great works which Mrs. Booth has accomplished is the two homes for ex-convicts in New York and Chicago. These are made as homelike as possible for the ex-convict and one of the conditions of admission to the home is that the applicant must have served at least one term in penitentiary. Even reporters and detectives are denied admission. They get so far as Mrs. Booth's office but no farther. This gives the ex-convict a quiet home where he is not gazed at and where he can recover his power of speech and a proper gait while trying to secure honorable work. Mrs. Booth is a noble woman in a noble work. May God bless her.

#### PACIFIC ITEMS

MARTIN SHIVELY

I think I promised myself and perhaps the editor at the beginning of the year that I would write a news letter for the EVANGELIST once each month during the year. I have about made up my mind that I'll be more careful how I make promises hereafter. The intention was good, I assure you, but to do, I have found to be quite another thing. Perhaps if I should tell you that for a year I have preached more than twenty sermons each month, and in addition have had an average of ten other services per month to say nothing of other duties which every pastor must meet, you will think more charitably of my failure.

I have not been alone in failing to keep my brethren posted as to our doings, for we have had an excellent district conference which has not been reported. The secretary is also a busy man, which explains his silence in this matter. The meeting was held this year at Lathrop and was in session Apr. 5-7. The attendance was not so good as sometimes, but this was not caused by indifference. La Grippe had many victims just then, and this prevented some from coming. What we lacked in members was fully made up to us by the spirit which pervaded the meeting, and the business part of the meeting suffered not a whit. The Camp Meeting Board reported a balance on the proper side of the ledger of \$85 left over from last meeting. The Mission Board was found to be on good footing, and pushing the work as fast as funds and evangelists permitted. The work of looking after and helping our scattered membership was again given to our brother J. W. Beer, and two of our young devoted sisters, Lillie Waddle and Minnie Isbell, were elected to be his helpers. The committee on general church work recommended that hereafter our conference should be held in connection with our camp meeting. That

our Mission Board should report quarterly thru the EVANGELIST and that steps should be taken to bring about a Pacific coast conference, in which California, Oregon and Washington should participate. All these recommendations were accepted by the conference. The Camp Meeting Committee suggested that camp meeting should be held every year, and that such paraphernalia as is necessary to insure comfort should be secured. His suggestions also received the sanction of the meeting. Delegates and pastors reported everything as going on well in the churches. Some excellent papers were read, and placed in the hands of a committee to be prepared for publication. A collection amounting to almost \$100 was taken for the sufferers in India. The next conference will be held during the autumn camp meeting which will begin on Thursday, Aug. 23, and continue 10 days. The meeting will be held near Lathrop, on the San Joaquin river, and all are expecting a great outpouring of blessing.

Mention was made recently concerning our visit to Lordsburg. For two and a half weeks, beginning June 5, we tried to preach the gospel there. During this time there were seven additions to our number, five by baptism and two by relation. On Saturday, June 16, a business meeting was called to consider the question of organizing, and as a result, the Lordsburg Brethren church was launched and twenty-nine members were enrolled at once. Brother B. F. Schisler was unanimously elected pastor, and the writer was retained as elder temporarily. Brother Jacob Lapp is the deacon; Sister M. M. Negley is secretary; Sister Laura Slotter, corresponding secretary and Sister Susan Dubel treasurer. We proposed to create also an advisory board, or consistory, as soon as the enrollment is complete. This church is composed principally of our isolated brethren and sisters in southern California and because of this we thought best to have a corresponding secretary who should keep in touch with all the scattered people and keep them acquainted with the organized effort of the church, and because Brother Schisler has not had much experience in the ministry, and the nature of the church will require special care and wisdom, it was thought best to have the consistory, for "in a multitude of counsel there is safety." The new pastor enters upon his work with a zeal which promises to climb over every obstacle. He is a scholar, sound in the faith, full of resources and has splendid executive ability and a first class help mate in his estimable wife. It seems to me that in all these there is good foundations upon which to base a hope that the Lord will bless the work. Pray for it, brethren, and remember the pastor at the Throne of Grace.

Two have been added to the Lathrop church by baptism since my last. At all our appointments the work goes on without friction. Brother Reed still breaks the bread of life at Vernalis and Marsh Creek, and is loved and respected by all.